

Support for new claim 12 may be found, for example, in Figure 2, in Paragraphs [0017] and [0018] of the Specification, and in claims 1-7 as originally presented.

Support for new claim 13 may be found, for example, in Figure 3, in Paragraph [0018] of the Specification, and in claims 1-7 as originally presented.

Support for new claim 13 may be found, for example, in Figure 3, in Paragraph [0018] of the Specification, and in claims 1-7 as originally presented.

Support for new claim 15 may be found, for example, in Figure 5, in Paragraph [0019], and in claims 1-7 as originally presented.

Petition under 37 CFR §1.136(a)

The statutory time period for response ended January 16, 2007. Therefore, a petition of a 2-month extension of time hereby accompanies this response.

Claim Objections.

Claims 5 and 6 were objected to due to informalities in the claim language. As Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled, the objection is rendered moot. Withdrawal of the Objection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 1 - 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as invention.

Claims 1 - 7 have been cancelled and Claims 8 - 15 have been added. Claims 8-15 more specifically point out Applicant's invention. Thus, the current rejection is rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 37 USC §102 (b).

Claims 1 – 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b), as allegedly anticipated by Allen (U.S. Patent No.: 3,817,111). The Office Action states that “Allen shows a screw (180) and nut (160) device (figure 10) where the nut can be released from the screw (position of figure 10) which allows the nut to travel along the screw for

coarse positioning and then the nut is re-engaged to provide for fine positioning of the device" (Office Action, page 2 and page 3).

As Claims 1-3 and 5 have been cancelled and new claims 8-15 have been introduced, the current rejection is rendered moot. However, with regards to Applicant's claims, Allen does not anticipate Applicant's invention. Specifically, Allen recites a mechanism that consists of a pair of threaded levers and a bar member with an oblong cross-section. The rotation of this bar member connects and disconnects the threads of the levers and the thread of the adjusting rod. It is the frictional action of this bar member over the levers that maintains the threads of the adjusting rod and levers connected while the device is positioned by the rotation of the adjusting rod. The device of the present claims does not contain these elements or function in a manner as claimed by Allen.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 37 USC §102 (b) is respectfully requested.

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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